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Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-fifth session (22 March 2006 and 7-16 February 2007)

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Summary

At its forty-fifth session, held on 22 March 2006 and from 7 to 16 February 2007, the Commission for Social Development considered the review cycle on the priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", as well as the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

On the priority theme, the Commission heard a keynote address by Les Kettledas, the Deputy Director General for Labour Policy and Labour Market Programmes of the Department of Labour of South Africa and held three panel discussions elaborating on the priority theme: macroeconomic policy for full employment and decent work; labour mobility, youth and families; and good practices for promoting employment and decent work. The Chairperson's summary of the discussions on the priority theme is contained in annex I to the present report.

The Commission adopted a resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development", according to which the Economic and Social Council would recommend that the Commission should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership during its forty-sixth session.

In connection with its review of plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission adopted a resolution on modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. To launch the first cycle of the five-year review of the Madrid Plan, a panel discussion was organized to bring before the Commission experts with in-depth knowledge of major challenges and progress in the area of ageing since the holding of the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion is contained in annex II to the present report. The Commission also heard a presentation on the upcoming publication of the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2007.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a resolution on youth. The Commission further recommended, through the Council, the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly on a supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The Commission addressed "youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development" under its emerging issues item. The Chairperson's summary of the discussion, which is contained in annex III to the present report, emphasizes the centrality of youth employment to social development through its contribution to poverty alleviation, social integration, intergenerational dialogue, citizenship and solidarity.

The Commission also addressed the subject of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 and heard statements by the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and by its Special Rapporteur on disability.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth", in which it requested the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-fifth session, to elaborate the five additional priority areas for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[1] and to make recommendations on a supplement to the World Programme of Action to the General Assembly, to be adopted at its sixty-second session, taking into consideration other emerging issues of particular relevance to youth,

"*Decides* to adopt the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth annexed to the present resolution.

"Annex

"Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth

"A. Globalization

"1. Globalization has opened new opportunities for sustained economic growth and the development of the world economy. Globalization has also permitted countries to share experiences and to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties and has promoted a cross-fertilization of ideas, cultural values and aspirations. Globalization has thus helped to connect youth not only to the rest of the world, but also with each other.

"2. At the same time, the rapid processes of change and adjustment of globalization have been accompanied by intensified poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Threats to human well-being, such as environmental risks, have also been globalized. Some countries have successfully adapted to

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 41-45.

[1] Resolution 50/81, annex.

the changes and benefited from globalization, but many others, especially least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalized world economy. The benefits are very unevenly shared, while the costs are unevenly distributed. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable. There is a strong need for appropriate policies and measures at the national and international levels to help countries respond effectively to the challenges of globalization and the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

"3. Many young people, especially in developing countries, remain marginalized from the global economy and lack the capabilities to access the opportunities globalization offers. Many are restricted by inadequate education, limited skills, unemployment and poverty or are outside the reach of basic information and communication and the goods and services that have become available with globalization.

"Proposals for action

"Managing the effects of globalization on youth

"4. The international community should continue to support the efforts of Governments, together with civil society, including youth-led organizations, the private sector and other parts of society to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people.

"5. Governments should ensure that access of youth to technical, secondary and higher education is improved and that curricula are adapted to meet the needs of a rapidly changing labour market associated with globalization. The transition between learning and work should also be facilitated.

"6. Governments should foster the conditions that provide opportunities, jobs and social services for youth in their home countries. Efforts should be made to guarantee that young migrants enjoy full respect of their human rights, including fair and equal treatment with others and the protection of law against, inter alia, violence, exploitation and discrimination such as racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and cultural intolerance, and access to economic opportunities and social services, as appropriate.

"Promoting youth employment and skills development in the context of globalization

"7. In order to overcome the mismatch between the skills that youth possess and the specialized demands of labour markets shaped by globalization, Governments, with appropriate support from the international community, should provide funding and opportunities in both formal and non-formal education for youth to acquire requisite skills, including through skill development programmes.

"8. At the same time, Governments should promote access to work through integrated policies that enable the creation of new and quality jobs for young people and that facilitate access to those jobs.

"Establish ways of monitoring systems to track effects of globalization on youth

"9. Governments should assess the extent to which the benefits of globalization are accessible to youth and should design and implement programmes to enable youth to better harness the benefits of globalization.

"Information and communications technology

"10. Information and communications technology (ICT) and infrastructures are growing in importance as a part of everyday business and interaction. This process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information, which hinder the bridging of the digital divide, particularly those that impede the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, especially youth, in particular in developing countries. ICT has enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education and to facilitate the learning process itself, thus laying the groundwork for the establishment of a fully inclusive and development-oriented information society and knowledge economy that respects cultural and linguistic diversity.

"11. Youth have a particular interest and ability with regard to modern technology. ICT can empower youth by providing them with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage. Through the Internet, for example, young people can have access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment. This information can be used to improve the quality of life of youth and their communities. This process can be facilitated if Governments, civil society, the private sector, families, youth-led organizations and other groups work together to open up avenues for a cultural and social exchange among young people. Governments can also capitalize on the interest of the young in ICT to alleviate poverty. For example, youth can become engaged not only in the use of ICT, but also in the development and engineering of locally relevant software design and hardware.

"12. ICT offers new ways to address the needs of youth with disabilities who cannot access traditional sources of information and employment. Vulnerable groups of population can capitalize on ICT to make a better connection with society and advance their education and employment opportunities.

"Proposals for action

"Making information and communications technology available to all youth

"13. Governments, supported by the international community, as appropriate, should facilitate access to ICT for all youth, including those in difficult to reach areas, such as rural areas and in indigenous communities. Governments should evaluate inequalities in access that exist between urban and rural youth and between young women and men and should develop national strategies to overcome the 'digital divide' in each country, thus decreasing the percentage of youth who have no access to ICT.

"14. Governments should develop domestic policies to ensure that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, as well as in support of the concept of lifelong learning.

"15. Governments, with the support of the international community, should promote and encourage local knowledge systems, and locally produced content in media and communications, support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of young persons, especially young women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT.

"Provide training to facilitate use of information and communications technology

"16. Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors in the information society, should ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICT appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways, to share their expertise and to participate fully in the information society. Efforts should be made to provide special training courses for in and out-of-school youth to enable them to become conversant with ICT and to facilitate their use of such technologies.

"Protection of youth from harmful aspects of information and communications technology

"17. Governments should strengthen action to protect youth from abuse and to defend their rights in the context of the use of ICT. In that context, the best interests of youth are a primary consideration. Governments should promote responsible behaviour and raise awareness of possible risks for young people from the harmful aspects of ICT in order to protect themselves from possible exploitation and harm.

"18. Governments, in cooperation with relevant actors of information society, should strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and harmful impact of ICT, in particular through cybercrimes, including child pornography.

"Promote the use of information and communications technology by persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups

"19. Governments should facilitate the development of ICT capacity for youth, including indigenous youth, youth with disabilities and youth in remote and rural communities.

"20. Governments should initiate the development and use of special technical and legal arrangements to make ICT accessible to all youth, including indigenous youth, youth with disabilities and youth in remote and rural communities.

"Empower young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society

"21. Governments should actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and should widen opportunities for youth involvement in e-strategy processes in a manner that encourages youth to assume leadership roles. The role of youth in creating, repairing, managing and maintaining ICT should also be recognized and encouraged.

"22. Bearing in mind that literacy and numeracy are preconditions for access and effective use of ICT, Governments should promote opportunities through formal and non-formal channels for young persons to acquire the appropriate knowledge.

"23. ICT should also be used to enhance education, employment and youth participation in the decision-making process. ICT should be used to improve the quality of education and to better prepare youth for the demands of the information society.

"HIV/AIDS

"24. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is increasingly a problem of youth, especially in parts of the developing world. Governments have noted with grave concern the fact that new HIV infections are heavily concentrated among youth and that there is a lack of information available to help youth understand their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases and to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

"25. Young people, especially young women in Africa, face especially high risks of HIV infection. Young people and women are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their lack of economic and social power and their lack of capability to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infections. They often lack the tools and information required to avoid infection and cope with AIDS. In 2006, women and girls made up 57 per cent of all people infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where a striking 76 per cent of young people (aged 15 to 24 years old) living with HIV are female.

"26. Although many children orphaned by AIDS have not yet entered the youth age groups, they are at great risk of becoming youth with severe vulnerabilities. They are subject to malnutrition, illness, abuse, child labour and sexual exploitation, and these factors increase their vulnerability to HIV infection. They also suffer the stigma and discrimination often associated with HIV/AIDS and may be denied education, work, housing and other basic needs as a result.

"27. It is imperative that young people continue to have access to evidence- and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education to enable them to avoid high-risk behaviour. In some regions youth, especially girls, play a key role in caring for HIV/AIDS patients or their orphans. To ensure that young caregivers stay in school, build their skills and have the chance to generate an income, Governments should provide economic and social support to families

that rely on young caregivers as well as support for improving home- and community-based care.

"28. Because youth often lack decision-making power and financial resources, they may be the last to receive treatment if they become infected. Programmes should scale up the provision of treatment as part of the promotion of the highest attainable standards of health.

"29. It is essential for Governments to implement fully the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[2] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001 and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. In addition, Governments should implement the commitments dealing with HIV/AIDS reached at all major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit and the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS on 2 June 2006,[3] at which Member States committed themselves to scale up towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatments, care and support by 2010 and to the goal of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development.[4]

"**Proposals for action**

"**Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment for youth**

"30. Governments should ensure that prevention of HIV infection is the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic and should therefore commit themselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes, which take into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, are available in all countries, in particular the most affected countries, including: information, education and communications, in languages most understood within communities and with respect for their cultures, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm-reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

"31. Governments should commit themselves to addressing the rising rates of HIV infection among young people in order to ensure that future generations may be free of HIV infection through the implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based prevention strategies, responsible sexual behaviour, including

[2] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/262, annex.

[4] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

the use of condoms, evidence- and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education, mass media interventions and the provision of youth-friendly health services.

"32. Governments should provide access to the highest attainable standards of affordable and youth-friendly health care in order, to increase the capacities of young people to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include confidential voluntary counselling and testing and involve young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of those efforts.

"33. Governments should promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to young people, including initiatives on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis.

"34. Recognizing that HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting youth in both developed and developing countries, all efforts should be made, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers, to ensure that youth have access to accurate information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection.

"35. Governments should involve young people, including youth living with HIV/AIDS, inter alia through their respective youth organizations and, as appropriate, with the support of their families, in the decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes.

"36. Governments should ensure that prevention programmes include counselling for those who are infected with HIV in order to ensure that they take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and to help them cope with the effects of living with HIV/AIDS.

"Support universal HIV/AIDS education, taking gender inequalities into account

"37. Trafficking of women and girls into prostitution and sexual slavery increases the vulnerability of young women to HIV/AIDS infection and is linked to the widespread feminization of poverty, sex-tourism, sweatshops and other detrimental consequences of globalization. Governments should devise, enforce and strengthen effective youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy in wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

"38. Governments should include appropriate information on the effects of high-risk behaviour, including intravenous drug use, on the transmission of HIV infection in school curricula and non-formal training programmes.

"39. Governments should give special attention to aspects of gender and to the disproportionate vulnerability of girls and young women in all programmes aimed at providing information about and preventing HIV/AIDS among youth.

"Legislation and legal instruments to protect vulnerable youth

"40. Governments should ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of destigmatization of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

"41. Governments should strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by youth, the protection of their dignity and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, and all types of sexual exploitation of young girls and boys, including for commercial reasons, as well as all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls.

"42. Governments should intensify efforts to enact, strengthen or enforce, as appropriate, legislation, regulations and other measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by youth living with HIV, including policies to secure their access to education, inheritance, employment, health care, social and health services, prevention, support and treatment, information and legal protection, while respecting their privacy and confidentiality and developing strategies to combat stigma and social exclusion connected with the epidemic.

"Armed conflict

"43. Development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The scale of violence perpetrated against civilians, including youth, in the past couple of decades is extremely worrisome. Armed conflicts have resulted in killings, the massive displacement of people, including youth, and the destruction of the communities, which has impacted negatively on their development.

"44. Youth are often among the main victims of armed conflict. Children and youth are killed or maimed, made orphans, abducted, taken hostage, forcibly displaced, deprived of education and health care and left with deep emotional scars and trauma. Children illegally recruited as child soldiers are often forced to commit serious abuses. Armed conflict destroys the safe environment provided by a house, a family, adequate nutrition, education and employment. During conflict, health risks among youth increase, especially for young women. Young women and girls face additional risks, in particular that of sexual violence and exploitation.

"45. During conflict, young men and women who are forced to take up 'adult' roles miss out on opportunities for personal or professional development. When conflict ends, many young people must make the transition to adulthood with the trauma of war intact, and yet they must quickly adapt to the new roles, often as parents and caretakers of the victims of war. Without services to help them deal with their situation youth and young adults may fail to integrate into society.

"Proposals for action

"Protection of youth under the age of 18 years from direct involvement in armed conflict

"46. Governments should ensure that children benefit from an early age from education about values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life in order to enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity, with tolerance and non-discrimination. Governments should promote a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue, including in both formal and non-formal education.

"47. Governments should consider, as a matter of priority, the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999 (Convention No. 182) of the International Labour Organization.

"48. Governments should take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take direct part in hostilities and that those who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.

"49. Governments should take all necessary measures, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as a matter of priority, to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, as distinct from the armed forces of a State, including the adoption of policies that do not tolerate the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, and the legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

"50. Governments should protect young persons in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict settings and refugee and internally displaced persons settings, where youth are at risk of violence and where their ability to seek and receive redress is often restricted, bearing in mind that peace is inextricably linked with equality between young women and young men and development, that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage taking still persist in many parts of the world, that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting young persons in nearly every region and that young persons need to be protected.

"Provisions for the reintegration of youth ex-combatants and protection of non-combatants

"51. Governments should provide opportunities for all youth who have been engaged in active combat, whether voluntarily or by force, who seek to demobilize and contribute to society's development to do so. In this regard, Governments should establish programmes to provide opportunities for youth

ex-combatants to retool and retrain to facilitate their employment in economic activity and their reintegration into society, including family reunification.

"52. Governments should take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children and young victims of armed conflicts, in particular by restoring access of those children and youth to health care and education, including through 'Education For All' programmes, as well as to put in place effective youth employment strategies to help provide a decent living for young people and to facilitate their reintegration into society.

"**Promoting active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security**

"53. Governments should encourage the involvement of young people, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation and peacebuilding.

"**Intergenerational issues**

"54. Many aspects of the demographic transition, global economic development and globalization have influenced opportunities for the intergenerational exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources. The increase in lifespan implies that many adults may live longer lives over which they can share knowledge and resources with younger generations. In recent times, greater longevity has resulted in many older people living longer periods in some form of dependency on younger generations. Trends in globalization and development have, however, resulted in many young people being cut off from their families. In many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the ageing population is dominant in rural areas owing to the exodus of young adults. Older persons may be left behind without the traditional support of families and even without adequate financial resources. While older persons lose opportunities to receive support from younger members of families, younger persons also lose opportunities to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of older members of their families.

"55. At the family and the community level, intergenerational ties can be valuable for everyone. Individual and family choices, geographic mobility and the pressures of contemporary life can keep people apart, yet the great majority of people in all cultures maintain close relations with their families throughout their lives. These relationships work in both directions, with older persons often providing significant contributions financially, emotionally and in the education and care of grandchildren and other kin, crucially contributing to the stability of the family unit.

"56. The weakening of intergenerational connections in the context of ageing societies implies that various needs of youth, children and older persons, which may have been supported through intricate and complex familial relationships, are increasingly not being met and are instead becoming the responsibility of the State or the private sector.

"57. It is therefore incumbent on Governments and relevant sectors of society to develop programmes that renew or restore intergenerational solidarity.

Where there has already been substantial erosion of the ability of communities to meet this objective, Governments should intervene to ensure that basic needs for protection are met.

"Proposals for action

"Strengthening of families

"58. While respecting individual preferences for living arrangements, all sectors of society, including Governments, should develop programmes to strengthen families and to foster intergenerational relations.

"Empowerment of young women

"59. Governments should promote greater participation by young women in the labour force, including those living in rural and remote areas, by providing and developing the necessary skills to enable them to find employment, especially by taking measures to overcome male and female stereotypes and by promoting role models, and to facilitate better reconciliation of work and family life.

"Strengthening of intergenerational solidarity

"60. Government and private sector businesses should capitalize on the opportunity to use the experience and skills of older workers to train younger and newer employees.

"61. Governments should promote equality and solidarity between generations, including offering young people full and effective participation in poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration programmes within their societies.

"62. All sectors of society should be encouraged to develop reciprocity in learning, which provides older persons with opportunities to learn from younger generations.

"63. Where traditional forms of social support have been reduced by migration, globalization and related situations, Governments should work with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide assistance and support to older caregivers, especially those providing care for HIV/AIDS orphans, to assist them in meeting the needs of children and grandchildren.

"64. Governments should take steps to strengthen solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships through the promotion of activities that support intergenerational communication and understanding, and should encourage mutually responsive relationships between generations.

"65. The full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels is important for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the promotion and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the evaluation of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation and for support of the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by young people and youth organizations. Governments should encourage their participation in actions and decisions and in strengthening

efforts to implement the World Programme of Action, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights, but different needs and strengths, and that they are active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society."

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[5] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[6] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[7] of 16 September 2002, General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Assembly's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Recognizing the commitments made in meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[8]

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Bearing in mind the fact that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 5-8.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[6] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development[9] to the New Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[7] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process and the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in some countries and the completion of the self-assessment process, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the peer review, as a matter of priority, and to strengthen the peer review process to ensure its efficient performance;

3. *Further welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

4. *Recalls* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase their support to enhance the capacities of these institutions;

5. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development also depends on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

6. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

7. *Further emphasizes* that rising poverty levels and social exclusion faced by most African countries require significant changes in the development of social policy and comprehensive social policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development, ensure employment creation and decent work for all, enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy, good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and achieve Africa's social and economic objectives;

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[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

8. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

9. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, welcomes, in that regard, the convening of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation on 4 and 5 November 2006 and the Africa-South America Summit, held in Abuja on 30 November and 1 December 2006, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through triangular cooperation;

10. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, including the Africa-Asia Business Forum, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, the report of the Commission for Africa entitled *Our Common Interest* and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa;

11. *Urges* continuous support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology;

12. *Welcomes* the recent increase in official development assistance pledged by many of the development partners, including the commitments of the Group of Eight and the European Union, which will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010, and encourages all development partners to ensure aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability of 2005;[10]

13. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies and in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

15. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

16. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to

[10] Available at http://www1.worldbank.org/harmonization/PARIS/FINALPARISDECLARATION.pdf.

promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

17. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union, the secretariat of the New Partnership and African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives based on their national development priorities and strategies to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges in this regard recent commitments by some donor countries;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

20. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss, in its annual programme of work, regional programmes to promote social development to enable all regions of the United Nations system to share experiences and best practices, with the concurrence of concerned countries;

21. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its implementation during its forty-sixth session, and in that regard requests the Commission to provide recommendations on the measures to achieve that end during the policy session of 2008.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-fifth session;[11]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 6* (E/2007/26).

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

(a) Priority theme: Promoting full employment and decent work for all;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

Report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

(c) Emerging issues.

4. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

5. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

D. Decision calling for action by the Council

4. By the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of eight candidates to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

Decision 45/101
Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development decides to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following eight candidates

for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) Yakin Ertürk (Turkey), Elizabeth Jelin (Argentina) and Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya (Russian Federation) for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2007 and expiring on 30 June 2009;

(b) Peter Brandt Evans (United States of America), Rosalind Eyben (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Pasuk Phongpaichit (Thailand), Annika Sundén (Sweden) and Zenebeworke Tadesse (Ethiopia) for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2011.

E. Resolutions and decision brought to the attention of the Council

5. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 45/1
Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling that in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[12] adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that in its resolution 42/1 the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Mindful that in its resolution 44/1 it endorsed the calendar for the first cycle of the review and appraisal and the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing" and decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General on major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[13]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 35-37.

[12] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[13] E/CN.5/2007/7 and Corr.1.

1. *Invites* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for coordinating the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[12]

2. *Calls upon* Governments to promote a bottom-up participatory approach throughout the entire implementation process of the Madrid Plan of Action;

3. *Encourages* Member States to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and in their national strategies, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming ageing and gender into global agendas;

4. *Invites* Governments to undertake their national review and appraisal exercises of those specific areas they have identified during 2007, using a participatory, bottom-up approach;

5. *Also invites* Governments to take into consideration the selected policy issues highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General[13] while undertaking national review and appraisal exercises;

6. *Invites* all countries to cooperate in conducting the review and appraisal exercises in their regions, including by organizing regional meetings, welcomes the initiatives of those Governments that have offered to host regional review and appraisal meetings in 2007, and encourages countries of those regions that have not yet confirmed arrangements for regional review and appraisal exercises to do so, including by organizing regional meetings;

7. *Invites* interested Governments to offer support and assistance, including voluntary financial contributions, to support national and regional review and appraisal activities and events during the first cycle of the review and appraisal;

8. *Invites* all major stakeholders, including civil society, to participate in the process of the review and appraisal and to contribute to its various activities and events;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the publication of the "Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Bottom-up participatory approach",[14] and looks forward to its being made available in all official languages of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as the United Nations focal point on ageing, to continue and strengthen its collaboration with the focal points on ageing in the regional commissions in conducting the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the identification of regional and global priorities for its further implementation;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to work with the organizations, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and other interested parties to coordinate efforts in identifying support that could be provided to Governments, upon their request, in undertaking participatory review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

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[14] Available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/MIPAA/GuidelinesAgeingfinal139.20Dec2006.pdf.

12. *Requests* all regional commissions to forward their findings of the first review and appraisal, along with identified priorities for future action regarding the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-sixth session in 2008;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of national independent and impartial monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invites Governments, autonomous institutions, academia and civil society organizations to conduct further studies, share their findings during the review and appraisal and formulate recommendations for future policy action;

14. *Invites* Governments and other major stakeholders to organize, during its forty-sixth session, parallel and satellite events, including panel discussions, seminars and round tables, to explore the findings of the review and appraisal exercise and to promote future priorities for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-sixth session in 2008, a report including the analysis of preliminary conclusions of the first review and appraisal exercise along with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options.

Resolution 45/2
Youth*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and Assembly resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, in which the Assembly decided to add five additional priority areas[15] for the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations,[16]

Recognizing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

1. *Recognizes* that young people form an active part of society and are important actors for social development, and encourages Member States, therefore, to involve young people and youth organizations in all aspects of youth development, including holding consultations with youth-led organizations as well

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 38-40.

[15] See General Assembly resolution 60/2, para. 13.

[16] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

as, on a continuing basis, including youth representatives in national delegations to relevant United Nations forums;

2. *Appreciates* the collaboration between Governments, the United Nations, its agencies and the regional commissions and regional, national and non-governmental youth organizations in the implementation and monitoring of progress of implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and urges them to continue to do so; in this regard, the Commission for Social Development should continue a policy-level dialogue on youth for policy coordination and for the periodic monitoring of issues and trends;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of the "World Youth Report", produced by the Secretariat, in providing the guidelines and standards for addressing youth development issues around the world, and urges the Secretary-General to regularize the production of the report, with the support of voluntary contributions, as a recurrent biennial publication of the United Nations, beginning in 2009;

4. *Urges* Governments, in consultations with youth organizations, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies, based on the World Programme of Action for Youth and the five additional priority areas,[16] and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action and the five additional priority areas;

5. *Reiterates* the call of the General Assembly on the organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency arrangements on youth policies and programmes, with a view to improving coordination and enhancing synergies among relevant system activities in this regard;[17]

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General, in the light of the growing interest across United Nations agencies and programmes in youth development, to take a lead and a more systematic role in inter-agency consultations on youth development, in cooperation with Governments and youth-led non-governmental organizations, and to move such discussions from an ad hoc to a more regular basis;

7. *Invites* the regional commissions, the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to ensure the effective implementation of all ten priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the five additional priority areas and to continue to be actively involved in their monitoring and follow-up;

8. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in countries with limited resources, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to identify goals and targets regarding the cluster "youth and the global economy" and to submit an addendum to the report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the

[17] General Assembly resolution 60/2, para. 6.

World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[18] to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

10. *Takes note* of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth, and requests the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Commission for Social Development, to develop and propose a broad set of indicators related to youth and to report thereon to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session.

Decision 45/102
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its forty-fifth session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all;[19]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development;[20]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development on monitoring of the implementation of the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;[21]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.[22]

[18] A/62/61-E/2007/7.
[19] E/CN.5/2007/2.
[20] E/CN.5/2007/3.
[21] E/CN.5/2007/4.
[22] E/CN.5/2007/6.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 11th and 13th and 14th meetings, from 7 to 9, 12, 13, 15 and 16 February 2007. It had before it the following documents: A/62/61-E/2007/7, E/CN.5/2007/2, E/CN.5/2007/3, E/CN.5/2007/4, E/CN.5/2007/7 and Corr.1 and E/CN.5/2007/NGO/1-16.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission, after which the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement on item 3 as a whole.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the community of non-governmental organizations on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum.

4. Also, at the same meeting, the keynote speaker, Les Kettledas (South Africa), addressed the Commission, after which comments were made by representatives of the delegations of Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and the Dominican Republic.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

5. At its 13th meeting, on 15 February, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2007/L.3).

6. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, orally introduced revisions to the draft resolution, and announced that Belgium[1] had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania,[1] Andorra,[1] Austria,[1] Bulgaria,[1] Cyprus,[1] the Czech Republic, Estonia,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Ireland,[1] Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Portugal,[1] Romania, Slovenia,[1] Spain, Sweden[1] and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2007/L.3 as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B).

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

A. Priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

9. The Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (a) at its 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 8, 9 and 12 February.

10. At its 4th meeting, on 8 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Turkey, the Russian Federation, Japan, Argentina, Finland, China, the United States of America, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

11. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Kazakhstan, Egypt, Mexico, Cuba, Belarus, Jordan, Morocco and the Holy See.

12. At its 5th meeting, on 8 February, statements were made by the representatives of Peru and the Netherlands, as well as by the observer for Niger.

13. At the same meeting, the representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) made statements.

14. Also, at the same meeting, statements were made by the following observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Movement ATD Fourth World, New Humanity and the International Council on Social Welfare.

15. At its 7th meeting, on 9 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Central African Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Zambia, Tunisia, Monaco, Italy, India, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh.

16. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Jamaica, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Malawi, Israel, the Sudan, Norway, Algeria, Colombia and Yemen.

17. At its 8th meeting, on 12 February, statements were made by the representative of Moldova, as well as by the observers for Iraq and Costa Rica.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) made a statement.

19. Also, at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Organization of Employers and the Triglav Circle.

Panel discussions under the priority theme

21. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 February, the Commission held a panel discussion entitled, "Macroeconomic policy for full employment and decent work", moderated by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Presentations were made by Ms. Marion Williams, Governor of the Central Bank of

Barbados; Mr. Mustapha Nabli, Chief Economist and Director of the Social Economic Development in the World Bank; and Mr. Jean-Paul Tricart, Head of Unit for International Affairs in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in the European Commission, who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), the Dominican Republic, Japan, Jamaica, Lebanon, Cuba, India, the United Kingdom, Jordan and the United States. The observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Union also made an intervention.[2]

22. At its 5th meeting, on 8 February, the Commission held a panel discussion entitled "Labour mobility, youth and families", moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Presentations were made by Ms. Ndidi Nwuneli, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the African non-governmental organization "LEAP"; Mr. Baharat Wakhlu, President of Tata Incorporated in the United States; and Mr. Magatte Wade, founding member and Chairman of L'Agence d'Execution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public (AGETIP), President of Friends of Africa and member of the High-level Policy Network on Youth Employment, who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Japan, the Dominican Republic, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Jamaica, Tunisia, Senegal, Pakistan, the United States and the Syrian Arab Republic.

23. Interventions were also made by the representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

24. At its 6th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission held a panel discussion entitled, "Good practices for promoting full employment and decent work for all", moderated by the Executive Director of the Employment Sector of ILO. Presentations were made by Bishop Zephania Kameeta of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia; Santosh Mehrotra, Adviser, Rural Development, Planning Commission of India; Sonia Roch, Senior Researcher, Instituto de Estudos do Trabalho e Sociedade (IETS); and Sylvia Beales, Policy Development Manager of HelpAge International (HAI), who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Germany (on behalf of the EU), Japan, Finland, Argentina, Jamaica, the United States, Pakistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zambia and Cuba. The observer for Sustain US (on behalf of Citizens Network for Sustainable Development)[2] also made an intervention.

25. In accordance with Council resolution 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, the Chairperson's summary of the review of the priority theme, under sub-item 3 (a) is contained in annex I to the present report.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

Documents considered under the sub-item

26. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on

[2] A non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

promoting full employment and decent work for all[3] (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 45/102).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

27. At its 8th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Ageing", moderated by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development. Presentations were made by Sheilabai Bappoo, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions of Mauritius; Mary Ann Tsao, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tsao Foundation; Martha B. Pelaez, Ph.D., international expert in the area of ageing and health; and Frederick F. Fench, Director of the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Jamaica, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and El Salvador. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia also participated in the dialogue.

28. A chairperson's summary of the panel discussion is contained in annex II to the present report.

29. At its 9th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission heard a panel presentation on the upcoming publication of the Secretary-General's "World Youth Report 2007", moderated by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development. Presentations were by Jane Lowicki-Zucca, lead editor of the "World Youth Report 2007"; David Gordon, Head of the Centre for the Study of Poverty and Social Justice, University of Bristol; Professor Julio F. Carrión, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Delaware; and Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima, Executive Director, Development Partnership International.

30. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission began its general discussion of the sub-item and heard statements by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Spain, Japan, China, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Chile, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Mali, as well as by the observers for Lithuania, Canada, Mexico and Malawi.

31. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Haiti, Monaco, Bangladesh, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Argentina, Paraguay, Zambia and Cameroon, as well as by the observers for Cuba, Brazil, Qatar, Cameroon and the United Kingdom.

32. At the same meeting, representatives of ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made a statement.

33. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made statements: HelpAge International; Pax Romana; the European Youth Forum; the

[3] E/CN.5/2007/2.

International Federation on Ageing; the American Association of Retired Persons; and Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants.

34. At its 11th meeting, on 13 February, the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission reported, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/9 of 21 July 2005, on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The Special Rapporteur subsequently engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of the Philippines and Ecuador.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

35. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the Vice-Chairperson, Francis Lorenzo (Dominican Republic) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002" (E/CN.5/2007/L.4), submitted on the basis of informal consultations and orally revised the text.

36. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. E, resolution 45/1).

Youth

38. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of Senegal, also on behalf of Albania,[1] Andorra,[1] Angola, Austria,[1] Belgium,[1] Bulgaria,[1] Cape Verde,[1] Czech Republic, Estonia,[1] Finland, Germany, Greece,[1] Ireland,[1] Kenya,[1] Liberia,[1] Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway,[1] Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] Senegal, Slovakia,[1] Slovenia,[1] Spain, Sweden,[1] Thailand,[1] Ukraine and the United Kingdom,[1] introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Youth" (E/CN.5/2007/L.5). Subsequently, Azerbaijan,[1] Cameroon,[1] the Congo,[1] Costa Rica,[1] Cyprus,[1] the Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica,[1] Moldova, Morocco,[1] Panama,[1] the Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

39. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. E, resolution 45/2).

Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth

41. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the Chairperson of the Commission introduced a draft resolution entitled "Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth", which was circulated in an informal paper.

42. Following the statements by the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan and by the representative of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), the Vice-

Chairperson, Joyce Kafanabo (United Republic of Tanzania), made a statement and orally corrected the draft resolution.

43. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

44. Also at its 14th meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution and recommended it to the General Assembly for adoption, through the Economic and Social Council.

45. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Documents considered under the sub-item

46. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission on monitoring of the implementation of the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities[4] (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 45/102).

C. Emerging issues: "Youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development"

47. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (c) at its 11th meeting, on 13 February, at which it heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

48. At the same meeting, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (c) and heard statements by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Senegal, the Netherlands and Spain, as well as by the observer for the United Kingdom.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (c)

Documents considered under the sub-item

49. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the Commission decided to take note, on the proposal of the Chairperson, of the note by the Secretariat on youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development[5] (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 45/102).

[4] E/CN.5/2007/4.
[5] E/CN.5/2007/3.

Chapter III
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered sub-items 4 (a), (b) and (c) of the agenda at its 12th meeting on 14 February 2007.

A. Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2004-2005

B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009

2. At its 12th meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement under sub-items 4 (a) and (b) and drew the attention of the Commission to two informal papers that had been circulated to the Commission.

C. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

3. Also at its 12th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development presented the report of the Institute on its work during 2005 and 2006.

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following eight candidates to serve on the Board of the Institute: Peter Brandt Evans, Rosalind Eyben, Pasuk Phongpaichit, Annika Sundén, Zenebeworke Tadesse, Yakin Ertürk, Elizabeth Jelin and Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 45/101).

Documents under sub-item 3 (b)

5. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, the Commission decided to take note, on the proposal of the Chairperson, of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development[1] (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 45/102).

[1] E/CN.5/2007/6.

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 16 February 2007. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2007/L.2).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-sixth session (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session

1. At its 14th meeting, on 16 February, Hedda Samson (Netherlands), Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session (E/CN.5/2007/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its forty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 22 March 2006 and from 7 to 16 February 2007. The Commission held 14 meetings (1st to 14th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 44 States members of the Commission. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations and of non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended (a list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2007/INF/1 and Corr.1).

C. Election of officers

3. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 22 March 2006 and 7 February 2007, in pursuance of that decision, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Mehdi **Danesh-Yazdi** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Francis **Lorenzo** (Dominican Republic)
Hedda **Samson** (Netherlands)
Joyce **Kafanabo** (United Republic of Tanzania)
Volodymyr **Pekarchuk** (Ukraine)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Commission designated Hedda Samson, Vice-Chairperson, as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission, on the recommendation by the Bureau, approved the theme for sub-item 3 (c), Emerging issues: "Youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development" and agreed that the Chairperson's summary of the discussion on the sub-item would be included as an annex to the final report of the Commission.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/2007/1, as orally revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all;

   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

      (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

   (c) Emerging issues: "Youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development".

4. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2004-2005;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009;

   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

5. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, following the statement by the Secretary of the Commission, the Commission approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.5/2007/1, annex I, as orally revised.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/18, that the Chairperson's summary of the Commission's review of the priority theme would be included as an annex to the final report of the Commission.

E. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-fifth session is contained in annex IV to the present report.

Annex I

Chairperson's summary of the discussions on the priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all"

1. The world is currently facing a deficit of decent work, a situation that is characterized by high and increasing unemployment and underemployment, poor quality and unproductive jobs, unsafe work and insecure income, lack of rights and gender inequality. In this context, globalization has had both positive and negative effects on the economies of countries, having opened up new opportunities for development while also contributing to labour market deregulation and flexibility, which, in some cases, has led to the present deficit of decent work.

2. The ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2006 provided a platform for concrete action to promote full employment and decent work. The Commission should contribute to the implementation of the ministerial declaration and should ensure greater coherence of its work in this regard. In that regard, the importance of the "decent work" agenda of the International Labour Organization (ILO) cannot be overemphasized. More effective coordination of work is needed between United Nations agencies and other institutions at the country level in the context of the current United Nations reform process.

3. Full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable development in all countries and should therefore be a priority in international cooperation. The challenges of achieving full employment and decent work require a comprehensive approach at the national and international levels. At the World Summit for Social Development, the goal of full and productive employment was put at the forefront of the United Nations development agenda. Making full and productive employment and decent work for all a central objective of national and international policies is imperative to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal to reduce poverty.

4. Creating an enabling environment, based on an integrated and coherent set of policies at the national and international levels, is essential. In pursuing that goal, policies at the international level should support growth, poverty reduction and creation of decent jobs for all. Thus, trade barriers should be dismantled to ensure that all countries have equal access to markets. Furthermore, democracy, good governance and infrastructure are essential for the creation of an enabling environment for full employment and decent work for all.

5. Unemployment is a major cause of poverty while full employment and decent work are important pathways for poverty alleviation. However, the large number of working poor clearly demonstrates that for many people work alone is not enough to provide a decent living. There is also an emerging consensus that economic growth alone does not, as has been previously assumed, automatically lead to the creation of jobs. Social security systems should be improved to assist those in need, and such efforts should include extending labour standards and social protection programmes to workers in the informal economy.

6. Key challenges to employment expansion include: low levels of economic growth; low rates of investment; poor planning; an underdeveloped agricultural

sector; high rates of population growth; a low technology and skills base; weak public institutions, workers' associations and civil society; and corruption. Changes in information and communications technology, new management practices and organization of work, as well as a need to match knowledge and skills to changing economic activities, also pose challenges to employment creation.

7. National policies for full employment and decent work should be considered in an integrated way, taking into account both demand and supply factors. Skills improvement must be accompanied by job creation, with more emphasis on vocational and technical training. Policies are needed to promote growth, investment and the development of small enterprises in order to expand and improve opportunities for employment. Investment and access to credit, including microcredit, are also essential for growth and job creation. Other components include: employment services; access to education and vocational training for the unemployed; and social protection. Priority attention must be given to the agricultural sector and to rural areas, where the majority of poor people live and work. Active labour market policies should aim at facilitating a smooth adjustment to the changes brought about by trade liberalization and globalization.

8. At the special session of the General Assembly held in Geneva in 2000, a commitment was made to ensure that macroeconomic policies reflect and fully integrate, inter alia, employment growth and poverty reduction goals. At that time it was agreed that countries would reassess, as appropriate, their macroeconomic policies, aiming at greater employment generation and a reduction in poverty levels while striving for and maintaining low inflation rates. Regrettably, very limited progress on those two commitments has been made, and the challenges for achieving full employment and decent work remain daunting.

9. Policymakers must consider not only the financial and stabilization objectives of macroeconomic policies but also their social impact. Given the adverse impact of recent stabilization programmes on employment and social protection, there is now an increased awareness to find ways of reconciling market forces with the social imperative of employment at the policy level. Macroeconomic policy is an important instrument for employment generation and development, and full employment and the provision of decent work should be given a more prominent role in macroeconomic policy rather than being treated as peripheral or residual objectives. Although many Governments include full employment and social protection as objectives of their monetary and fiscal policies, they assign varying degrees of priority and importance to those objectives in relation to others.

10. The monetary policies of central banks can contribute to employment generation, principally through exchange rate, interest rate and credit policies. Sound monetary policies can encourage confidence in the economy, promote private savings and investments and thus contribute to economic growth and employment creation. However, with increasing financial liberalization, direct intervention by central banks to influence credit and interest rates is increasingly considered to be inappropriate by international financial institutions. A major challenge for monetary policies is the volatility of capital flows, which has accompanied financial liberalization. In some countries, such volatility has brought about large financial crises, including increased unemployment and growth in the informal sector.

11. Macroeconomic policies traditionally consider price stability as essential for the achievement of the broader objective of stability in the economy as a whole,

including the achievement of full employment. That said, price stability has, in many cases, not helped to create an environment for sustained growth and adequate levels of employment. Indeed, low and stable inflation, assumed to support economic growth in the long run, may in some cases have led to slower growth and rising unemployment. While macroeconomic stabilization and structural adjustment programmes help to reduce budget deficits and to maintain inflation within acceptable limits, such measures have failed to improve growth rates substantially. In other cases, inflation reduction through tight monetary policies can lead to an appreciation of the real exchange rate, reducing export competitiveness, encouraging import penetration and shifting the distribution of resources towards non-tradable sectors, with a consequent negative impact on employment and growth, as has been demonstrated in the Middle East and North Africa regions.

12. Structural conditions have a strong impact on the prospect of employment generation in an economy. In certain countries and regions, structural change may be needed where there is a disconnection between the real economy and the financial sector. For monetary policy to have an impact on employment and growth targets, the financial sector needs to be improved to effectively intermediate monetary and fiscal stimuli. In addition, other structural issues need to be addressed, including: balancing the dominance of the public sector with private sector development; moving from dependence on resources to more diversified economies; opening closed or inward-looking economies; and liberalizing rigid exchange rate regimes.

13. Social protection and social dialogue can have positive macroeconomic effects and can thus contribute to raising productivity: social protection can provide stable income, which smoothes the impact of cyclical swings in the economy; and such support systems can help to maintain demand and economic growth at levels that can contribute to the creation of new employment opportunities. Social protection can also improve labour mobility by providing income security that helps to stabilize the economy and to facilitate transitions and adjustments in the labour market. There have, however, been cutbacks in social protection as a result of macroeconomic stabilization efforts.

14. Social protection is still an underutilized pillar of the decent work agenda, and social transfers should become an essential solidarity-based development tool. Social transfers support the poorest and reduce income inequality and poverty. The implementation of such transfers is a clear indication of political will to address vulnerability and to support the poorest. Social protection has a positive impact on school enrolment, attendance and performance as well as on access to health care and better nutrition, while universal pensions contribute to the reduction of poverty among the elderly.

15. Although investment in social protection can be quite small relative to the variety of positive outcomes it produces, there are still concerns about the affordability of such social protection schemes. The provision of social security, as a rights-based approach, should be progressively expanded to include informal workers. In addition, for many of the poor having any work, let alone decent work, is a matter of survival since there are few safety nets and, in some countries, very few possibilities of making a decent living outside the formal sector.

16. Social dialogue, through partnerships between Governments, the private sector, labour organizations and trade unions can contribute to strong collective

efforts for full employment and decent work. Social dialogue through tripartite bargaining can serve as a stabilizing force between social partners to mitigate the impact of inflation and in bargaining demands for realistic wages. It also helps in reaching consensus on reforms aimed at improving the labour market while preserving protection for workers. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and joint efforts by Governments, citizens, trade unions and business organizations should be encouraged by donor agencies and intergovernmental organizations. In this regard, there is a need to support capacity-building in ministries and institutions directly responsible for designing and implementing comprehensive social and employment policies.

17. Emphasis should be given to the importance of the private sector for sustainable and productive jobs. Enterprise development, an enabling environment for small- and medium-sized enterprises, education and training, labour intensive methods, flexible labour market policies, freedom for employers to hire and fire while ensuring income and employment security for employees ("flexicurity") and effective labour market policies for the management of change should also be considered. Creating incentives for employment creation through investment in productive sectors, the transfer of technology, microfinance and microcredit, the promotion of employment in rural areas and public works programmes are also advocated.

18. Job creation is important to address the demographic challenges faced by many countries, including ageing populations and large numbers of youth becoming of working age. There is considerable concern over the lack of employment opportunities for marginalized social groups such as youth, older persons and women. While women have achieved progress in employment in many countries, gender discrimination in employment has persisted.

19. Increased longevity is both an asset and a challenge for many societies. Older people must often continue to work owing to a lack of retirement funds. The availability of part-time work for older workers is important, as are social protections such as pensions and health care.

20. As a result of demographic changes and the pressures of globalization, increasing numbers of people are migrating within their own countries and across borders for work. Labour mobility is an important and growing phenomenon worldwide, especially among youth. While close to half of the world's jobless people are young, in many countries they face a stark lack of opportunity. Over the past few decades, economic growth has not led to creation of new jobs, a fact that has particularly affected young people. High youth unemployment in developing countries, together with conflict and a desire to improve their livelihoods, are among the main reasons for high mobility rates among the young, particularly college graduates.

21. Labour mobility provides advantages and disadvantages both for the receiving and sending countries, and the movement of people can help to balance demographic differences. Labour mobility also generates remittances that are very important to the economies of many developing countries, sometimes exceeding official development assistance. Such financial flows can help reduce poverty, and there is evidence that they contribute to the development of infrastructure. Furthermore, workers employed overseas acquire and develop skills that can be used to stimulate economic growth at home, and they develop networks useful for the exchange of information and entrepreneurship. Migration for work can, however, pose significant disadvantages arising from the forced separation of families for

extended periods of time. The full effects of migration on sending and receiving countries, as well as on the families of migrants and migrants themselves, are not yet fully understood.

22. In a world where goods and large sums of money freely move across borders, people should be able to move too, and they should be able to do so in a way that ensures both physical and financial security as well as protection. Fair rules and adherence to international labour standards need to be accompanied by similar rules for movement of people across borders. Cooperation between countries of origin and destination should be enhanced to ensure that migrant workers are protected, especially women migrant workers. Despite fears that migration could displace jobs, reduce wages and cause long-term separation of families, labour mobility has raised incomes and productivity in both developing and developed countries. Remittances help increase household consumption and are often used for education and health care, thus contributing to poverty reduction. Coordinated immigration policies enabling families to reunite are important, and there is also a need for partnerships and bilateral programmes to finance agricultural development in order to slow migration flows.

23. In many developing countries, the public sector cannot absorb highly educated workers. Immigration policies in receiving countries often favour highly skilled individuals. Such factors contribute to the outmigration of highly skilled and educated individuals known as the "brain drain". Remedies to prevent and reverse brain drain include a funding pool to attract workers to return to their home countries and packages to increase the benefits of returning home for highly educated nationals.

24. There are several good practices relating to full employment and decent work. In Brazil, for example, a family stipend programme, the bolsa família, provides small cash transfers for 11 million low income families and has the long-term goal of poverty reduction through increasing human capital among poor families. In the case of another country, early strategies have had limited effects in curbing unemployment and fewer sustained benefits for the poor. A recent proposal for a basic income grant for all has emerged as a good practice model for alleviating poverty and empowering the poor to improve their livelihoods. Under that proposal, a monthly cash grant would be issued to each citizen up to pensionable age. Another example, described a national rural employment guarantee programme, would provide one adult member of a rural family with 100 days of paid employment on a guaranteed basis every year. The main goals of the programme include the provision of a social safety net for vulnerable groups and the enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop infrastructure.

25. In conclusion, all individuals, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, race or disability, have the right to equal opportunity and decent work. Decent work and equality are important for economic development, inclusive societies, security and stability. In this regard, the importance of the four pillars of the decent work agenda, productive and freely chosen employment, rights at work and core labour standards, social protection and social dialogue should be emphasized. The decent work agenda should aim at balancing economic performance with social justice, thus creating an enabling environment to tackle poverty. In conclusion, failure to address unemployment and the lack of decent work poses a threat to humanity, stability and world peace.

Annex II

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: highlights of progress

1. Although in some countries populations are ageing quite rapidly while in others the process is slower, all the panellists agreed that demographic ageing poses a major challenge, especially for developing countries. Among the particular issues raised were enabling older persons to play an active role in development, securing the health and well-being of people as they age and building more supportive and conducive environments for the ageing population.

2. Panellists stressed that the impacts of ageing on societies are widespread, holding important implications for, inter alia, economic growth, health-care systems, social protection measures, the labour market, families and communities and globalization. Links therefore need to be strengthened between the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 and key international policy objectives, such as poverty reduction strategies, the Millennium Development Goals, the decent work agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Such linkages will also help to mainstream ageing into the policy discourse.

3. Three fundamental areas necessary for active ageing emerged. The first involves financial security, either in the form of non-contributory social pensions or more traditional contributory social protection schemes, so that older persons have a regular income on which to live. Rather than being viewed as a cost, social pensions should be viewed as an important investment in development, one which pays dividends to families, communities and the overall economy. The second deals with health promotion, including an emphasis on preventive care and effective management of chronic conditions, adequate training of health-care providers in geriatric medicine and an expansion of home-care services and support to family caregivers. Healthy ageing not only enhances the quality of a person's life, it is also far more cost effective and less draining on public health systems. The third area addresses issues of participation and empowerment of older persons so that they can have a meaningful voice in policies and programmes that affect them, rather than being sidelined and discriminated against. Organizations of older persons can provide an entry point for engaging in policy dialogue and also help to ensure that people receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

4. A general consensus was that successful implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, particularly in developing countries, hinges on the development of national capacity in carrying out ageing policies. To that end, Governments in developed countries, civil society and international organizations can assist in providing training and advisory services during the review and appraisal process.

Annex III

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on agenda item 3 (c), "Youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development"

1. The note by the Secretariat, entitled "Youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development", highlighted key elements and provided discussion points. The note emphasized the centrality of youth employment to social development through its contribution to poverty alleviation, social integration, intergenerational dialogue, citizenship and solidarity.

2. It was acknowledged that young people represent the promise and potential of a society's future, and that youth employment must be placed at the centre of social development policies. The urgency of addressing youth employment was clear from the large numbers of young people currently out of school and unemployed. Without adequate and appropriate employment opportunities, young people are made more vulnerable to marginalization and social exclusion. Failure to adequately address the challenge of youth employment can impose large economic and non-economic costs on society.

3. There are 218 million children worldwide who are working in deplorable conditions and not attending school. Children who do not receive an education will find their future employment opportunities severely limited and are likely to be trapped in an intergenerational cycle of poverty. Education must be made a priority so that young people can obtain the education and skills relevant to the labour market. In that regard, vocational training is vital to create a strong and viable education system. Education systems must be responsive to changes in the labour market, and strategies must be promoted to make education and training accessible for all youth, without discrimination.

4. The creation of a decent work environment for youth requires many different approaches. For example, it is essential to promote good governance that works to eradicate poverty and promote social inclusion. At the same time, given the link between youth unemployment and slow economic growth, it is necessary to ensure robust economic growth that creates decent jobs for all young people.

5. A number of countries have developed youth employment strategies that focus on providing young people with training, apprenticeships and jobs, with a particular focus on ethnic minorities and youth without relevant labour market skills. Many countries are working to lower the number of school dropouts and raise the number of youth completing secondary education, while others are promoting greater growth in youth employment by improving occupational training.

6. The Youth Employment Network supports dialogue and partnership among policymakers, the private sector, civil society and youth organizers to effectively address the issue of youth employment. As a result, many countries have launched or are developing national action plans for youth employment with the active participation and commitment of all stakeholders and partners, in particular young people themselves.

Annex IV

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-fifth session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
A/62/61-E/2007/7	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
E/CN.5/2007/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2007/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all
E/CN.5/2007/3	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on youth employment: impact, challenges and opportunities for social development
E/CN.5/2007/4	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2007/5	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General on nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2007/6	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2007/7 and Corr.1	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing
E/CN.5/2007/L.1	6	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session
E/CN.5/2007/L.2	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission
E/CN.5/2007/L.3	3	Draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
E/CN.5/2007/L.4	3 (b) (iii)	Draft resolution entitled "Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002"
E/CN.5/2007/L.5	3 (b) (ii)	Draft resolution entitled "Youth"

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.5/2007/CRP.1	4 (b)	Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the United Nations Social Policy and Development Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (English only)
E/CN.5/2007/NGO.1 and 3-16	3 (a)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2007/NGO.2	3 (b)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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